

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

March 10, 2004 LB 869

its purpose was. And he read through the statute and outlined the importance of making sure that these funds are used as enhancements, not as replacements, for what is already regulatory responsibility of the state, particularly regulated kinds of issues. This is not just a fund that sits there waiting for us to rob from it, as is frequently done, but is a fund that's there to do things that otherwise wouldn't be done, that are not a part of what our normal regulatory structure requires and that we have some obligation to then implement. So I appreciate especially Senator Beutler reminding us of that and reading from the statute about the direct language that applies to it. That was part of the discussion in the committee, and that's why the committee amendment did change some of that language. But it tends to be a process of ever vigilance, watching that we stay in touch with what the statute does relate to regarding the Environmental Trust. I certainly have concerns for what happens when most of us are gone and we have a whole new body here who doesn't remember any of that, sees this as just an available slush fund. I will conclude with that, but I would like to ask Senator Stuthman some questions.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Stuthman, would you respond to a question from Senator Preister?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: Senator, I heard your earlier comments, although I might not have heard them all clearly. You're a former county commissioner. Is that correct?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes.

SENATOR PREISTER: You are also from, I believe, Platte County, a rural county in Nebraska?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: Yes, that's right.

SENATOR PREISTER: And you, as a county commissioner in a rural county, worked with the local county weed board?

SENATOR STUTHMAN: In our county, the weed board was eliminated